

SENATE BILL 934  
EMERGENCY BILL

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F2

2004 Regular Session  
4r3257

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By: **Senator Hollinger**

Constitutional Requirements Complied with for Introduction in the last 35 Days of Session

Introduced and read first time: March 24, 2004

Rules suspended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education - Nursing Scholarships**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Maryland Higher Education Commission to  
4 award certain nursing scholarships to a nursing student attending a certain  
5 out-of-state institution if certain in-state institutions notify the Commission  
6 that they have rejected otherwise qualified applicants due to the lack of capacity  
7 in the in-state institution's nursing program and the nursing student provides  
8 the Commission with a copy of a certain rejection letter; altering the definition  
9 of a certain term; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally  
10 relating to nursing scholarships.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article - Education  
13 Section 18-706  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article - Education**

19 18-706.

20 (a) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

21 (1) "Eligible organization" means an institution, including a licensed  
22 hospital, nursing home, adult day care center, public health agency, home health  
23 agency, or other organization authorized by the Secretary of Health and Mental  
24 Hygiene.

1 (2) "Eligible institution" means an institution of postsecondary  
2 education:

3 (i) 1. Approved to operate by the Maryland Higher Education  
4 Commission; [and] OR

5 2. APPROVED BY THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION  
6 COMMISSION AS AN ACCREDITED AND EQUIVALENT OUT-OF-STATE NURSING  
7 PROGRAM; AND

8 (ii) That awards nursing degrees or diplomas.

9 (3) "Nursing shortage area" means a recognized area of nursing service  
10 or specialization determined by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to be an  
11 area where there exists a shortage of qualified nurses in eligible organizations.

12 (4) "Nursing student" means a student enrolled in a postsecondary  
13 nursing education degree or diploma program at an eligible institution.

14 (5) "Service obligation" means employment as a nurse in a nursing  
15 shortage area in an eligible organization.

16 (b) (1) Economic Development Student Assistance Grants may be awarded  
17 as scholarships for nursing students in nursing shortage areas.

18 (2) (i) The nursing scholarship awarded under this section shall be in  
19 the amount of tuition and fees not to exceed \$3,000 annually for a full-time student or  
20 a prorated award according to the number of credit hours taken by a part-time  
21 student.

22 (ii) Each award shall be renewable on an annual basis up to a  
23 maximum amount of \$12,000, if the recipient:

24 1. Remains a resident of this State;

25 2. Enrolls in an eligible institution;

26 3. Maintains a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0  
27 scale or its equivalent; and

28 4. Makes satisfactory progress toward the nursing degree or  
29 diploma according to the standards of the eligible institution attended.

30 (3) (i) For a nursing student enrolled in a nursing program, including  
31 mandatory summer academic sessions that are a required part of the approved  
32 curriculum, the nursing scholarship awarded under this section shall be in the  
33 amount of tuition and fees not to exceed \$4,500 per calendar year.

34 (ii) Each award shall be renewable on an annual basis up to a  
35 maximum amount of \$12,000, if the recipient:

- 1 1. Remains a resident of the State;
- 2 2. Enrolls in a nursing program at an eligible institution;
- 3 3. Maintains a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0  
4 scale or its equivalent; and
- 5 4. Makes satisfactory progress toward the nursing degree or  
6 diploma according to the standards of the eligible institution attended.

7 (c) Each recipient of the nursing scholarship awarded under this section shall:

- 8 (1) Be a nursing student;
- 9 (2) Have a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or its  
10 equivalent;
- 11 (3) Be selected by the Office on a competitive basis from among the  
12 qualified applicants based on academic criteria established by the Commission; and
- 13 (4) Perform the service obligation.

14 (d) THE COMMISSION MAY AWARD A NURSING SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS  
15 SECTION TO A NURSING STUDENT ATTENDING AN OUT-OF-STATE ELIGIBLE  
16 INSTITUTION IF:

17 (1) THE IN-STATE ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION NOTIFIED THE COMMISSION  
18 THAT THE IN-STATE ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION HAS REJECTED OTHERWISE QUALIFIED  
19 APPLICANTS DUE TO LACK OF CAPACITY IN THE IN-STATE ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION'S  
20 NURSING PROGRAM; AND

21 (2) THE NURSING STUDENT PROVIDES THE COMMISSION WITH A COPY  
22 OF THE REJECTION LETTER THE NURSING STUDENT RECEIVED FROM THE IN-STATE  
23 ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.

24 (E) (1) Each recipient of a nursing scholarship awarded under this section  
25 may be entitled, based on financial need, to an additional grant to meet living costs  
26 not to exceed \$3,000 annually for a full-time student or a prorated award according to  
27 the number of credit hours taken by a part-time student.

28 (2) Each additional grant shall be renewable on an annual basis up to a  
29 maximum amount of \$12,000, if the recipient meets the requirements for continuing  
30 the scholarship award under subsection (b)(2)(ii) of this section.

31 (3) The Office shall require a recipient of a nursing scholarship who  
32 seeks an additional grant for living costs to provide information to the Office  
33 sufficient to assure that the student has a definite financial need.

34 [(e)] (F) The Commission shall establish and publish rules and regulations  
35 to administer the grants awarded under this section.

1 [(f)] (G) Funds for the nursing scholarships awarded under this section  
2 shall be as provided in the annual budget of the Commission by the Governor.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an  
4 emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health  
5 or safety, has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the  
6 members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take  
7 effect from the date it is enacted.